

-----Original Message-----

From: Michel Cecilia [mailto:Michelthecrusader@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2006 11:28 PM

To: Public Hearing

Subject: The Walmart Bank

Chairperson Sheila Blair
FDIC

It's my civic duty to respectfully bring this matter to you, not only for my benefit but for the welfare of every other citizen of this country. There has to be a stop to this, corporations control our government, our environment, most of our lives and soon they'll control how we think. I'd love to be mistaken in this dystopian vision of things but it's confirmed to me day after day by the endless report of corporate crimes against society, the environment and human rights. This almighty commercial behemoth known as Walmart is in fact the epitome of corporate inhuman rule, thousands of events, perfectly verifiable despite their attempts to distort the facts and the deafening silence of the mainstream media, unveil the real nature of this pathological organization. But I apologize for not being specific, please allow me to cut to the case by sharing some edifying Walmart facts with you :

- The Walmart Lock-ins or the contempt towards its employees:

There has been heavy criticism of Wal-Mart's treatment of its workers, including low pay and the controversial "lock-ins" [7] During a "lock-in," night managers lock the employees in the building overnight, supposedly to prevent theft. Workers are then unable to leave. As of 2004, this practice was in effect in approximately 10% of Wal-Marts in the U.S. In one case in Florida, an employee was "deathly ill" according to coworkers, yet the manager refused to come immediately to unlock the building. Instead, the manager told the employees to "Fine [sic] one of the mattresses. Have him lay down on the floor."

- The Walmart Anti-Union Crackdown gestapo practices :

Wal-Mart has largely thwarted unionization by its U.S. employees with aggressively anti-union tactics. For example, when meat cutters at the Jacksonville, Texas supercenter voted to unionize in 2000, Wal-Mart closed its meat department and began shipping in pre-packaged meats at all stores. Similarly, when workers at a Jonquière, Quebec Wal-Mart voted to unionize, Wal-Mart closed the store five months later, claiming it was due to weak profits. Critics allege Wal-Mart closed the store as an anti-union tactic.

Another store in St Hyacinthe, QC. voted to unionize and Wal-Mart lost a court challenge to the certification process in April, 2006.

The corporation's anti-union policies are a matter of public record via internal documents leaked by present or past employees.

- The Walmart Dickensian sweatshop , workload, health plans and wages:

As with many US retailers, Wal-Mart experiences a high rate of employee turnover (approximately 50% of employees leave every year, according to the company). Although they average nearly double the federal minimum wage, wages at Wal-Mart are about 20% less than at other retail stores. Wal-Mart indirectly incurs costs for federal social service programs, due to the low wages it pays its employees. A report by U.S. Democratic Party congressman George Miller argued that a 200-employee Wal-Mart store may indirectly cost federal taxpayers \$420,750 to finance free-lunch and health-care programs for children of low-income Wal-Mart employees, tax credits for low-income families, and similar programs.

On October 26, 2005, The New York Times reported that a Wal-Mart internal memo sent to the firm's board of directors advised trimming over \$1 billion in health care expenses by 2011 through measures such as attracting a younger, implicitly healthier work force by offering education benefits. The memo also suggested giving sedentary Wal-Mart staffers, such as cashiers, more physically demanding tasks, such as "cart-gathering", and eliminating full-time positions in favor of hiring part-time employees who would be ineligible for the more expensive health insurance [5] — policy proposals which may violate the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

As of the time of submission of Wal-Mart's 10-Q Report for the quarterly period ended October 31, 2005, the company faced "numerous cases containing class-action allegations in which the plaintiffs have brought claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), corresponding state statutes, or other laws. The plaintiffs in these lawsuits are current and former hourly Associates who allege, among other things, that the Company forced them to work "off the clock," or failed to provide work breaks, or otherwise claim they were not paid for work performed. In 2000, Wal-Mart paid \$50 million to settle a class-action suit that asserted that 69,000 current and former Wal-Mart employees in Colorado had worked off-the-clock. These employees, as well as several former managers, have testified that Wal-Mart had an unofficial policy requiring off-the-clock work, to keep the cost of payroll down. As of the time of submission of Wal-Mart's 10-Q Report for the quarterly period ended October 31, 2005, the company reported: "The Company is a defendant in *Savaglio v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, a class-action lawsuit in which the plaintiffs allege that they were not provided meal and rest

breaks in accordance with California law, and seek monetary damages and injunctive relief. The trial began on September 6, 2005, in the Superior Court of Alameda County, California. Since 1997, investigators have found 250 illegal immigrants working at Wal-Mart stores. These individuals were employed by custodial services subcontractors used by Wal-Mart. Many of the janitors worked seven days a week without overtime pay or injury compensation. To settle federal criminal charges relating to these incidents, Wal-Mart paid \$11 million in March 2005 without admitting wrongdoing or liability.

Although there are countless cases like these, this kind of background alone strongly advises against the idea of further vesting this sociopathic entity with even more godlike power. It's against the most elementary common sense, an American virtue let it be said, to hand the keys to the safebox to the kleptomaniac. I wonder when this will be over, year after year we hear, we endure in our actual lives (which don't belong to us anymore) the ominous news and foul plays that these corporations burden us with. We fight them as best we can from our insignificant positions and with our insignificant means, and we try to compensate that disparity by giving our all to it, hoping that it'll end one shiny day and despite that they're still there and continue to poison our existence with their overwhelming dictates. It's like the metaphor of a drop of water constantly dripping on a hardened rock and managing after so many repeated drops to pierce a hole and crack it. Our humanity is that rock but we're no longer facing those endless drops of the darkside of our human limitations. We're submerged by a torrent of vileness.

I beg your pardon for these dark thoughts that transpire in what is supposed to be a more neutral missive, I have a tendency sometimes to let myself be carried away by bad news or restless days. To conclude, I beseech you to make a difference here and to prevent this monster from finding its way into our assets. I'll enclose the links that reference all of the facts I exposed above and I can only have faith that Right and not Might will make it right. I remain dear Chairperson Bair,

Yours truly,

Michel Cecilia

References:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walmart>

www.ripoffreport.com